

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 2-16 are withdrawn from further consideration for being directed to a non-elected invention and claims 1 and 17-37 have been examined. By this Amendment, Applicant cancels the withdrawn claims 2-16 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to file a Divisional Application directed to the non-elected claims.

In addition, Applicant amends claims 19 and 37 to clarify the features set forth therein and claims 21, 22, 24-29, and 31-34 for reasons of precision of language and consistency. Applicant also cancels claims 1, 17, 18, 20, and 36 without prejudice or disclaimer.

I. Preliminary Matters

As preliminary matters, Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim to foreign priority and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority documents was received. Applicant further thanks the Examiner for indicating acceptance of the drawing figures filed on January 25, 2005. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for initialing the references listed on Forms PTO/SB/08 A & B submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on January 25, 2005, June 7, 2006, and February 6, 2008.

The Examiner, however, failed to initial the Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO/SB/08 A & B filed on April 19, 2007. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner initial the appropriate boxes on the Form PTO/SB/08 indicating that the documents have been reviewed and return this form to the Applicant in the next office action.

In addition, Applicant notes that the Examiner has only provided a translation for the foreign references used in the rejections. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to provide the actual foreign references with the next Office Action.

II. Summary of the Office Action

Claim 36 is objected to because of minor informalities. Claims 1, 17-26, 28, 29, 31, 35 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and claims 27, 30, 32-34, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

III. Claim Objection

Claim 36 is objected to because of informalities. Applicant has cancelled claim 36, rendering this objection moot.

IV. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 17-26, 28, 29, 31, 35, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 10138583 to Morikawa (hereinafter “Morikawa”). Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejection at least in view of the following exemplary comments.

Claims 1, 17, 18, and 20 have been cancelled, rendering these rejections moot. With respect to remaining rejected claims, only claims 19 and 37 are independent. These independent claims *inter alia* and in some variation recite: “wherein a position, in the transporting direction, of said sensor is on an upstream side of a nozzle located most upstream in said transporting direction, of among said plurality of nozzles; wherein said liquid ejecting apparatus generates print data expressing a print image, a width of said print image of said print data is wider than the width of said medium; wherein said print data is masked so as to leave a margin outside each of said lateral edges detected by said sensor; and wherein, in accordance with the masked print data,

said liquid ejecting apparatus ejects said liquid in a region that is set wider than the width of said medium and does not eject said liquid beyond said margin.”

In an exemplary, non-limiting embodiment of the present invention, the region where the sensor detects whether or not the lateral edges of the medium are present is away from the region in which the liquid is ejected on the medium. That is, the sensor is positioned on the upstream side of the most upstream nozzle. Consequently, since the liquid is not ejected in the detection spot of the sensor, it is possible for the optical sensor to detect the lateral edges of the medium with high precision. As a result, it is possible to suppress wasting liquid (*e.g.*, Figs. 35A and 35B; ¶ 372 of the specification). It will be appreciated that the foregoing remarks relate to the invention in a general sense, the remarks are not necessarily limitative of any claims and are intended only to help the Examiner better understand the distinguishing aspects of the claims mentioned above.

Morikawa discloses a sensor 20 installed between two sensors in the platen that detects the edge of the medium for the purpose of preventing the platen 8 from getting dirty. Specifically, Morikawa discloses that when the back end of the printing medium 4 is not detected by the sensor 20, the platen 8 is prevented from getting dirty by suspending image formation in the portion where the printing medium is not present (¶¶ 18 and 19). Accordingly, Morikawa teaches away from the borderless printing set forth in claims 19 and 37.

Moreover, Morikawa clearly does not disclose or even remotely suggest any masking of the print data for the borderless printing. That is, Morikawa does not disclose or suggest “wherein said liquid ejecting apparatus generates print data expressing a print image, a width of said print image of said print data is wider than the width of said medium; wherein said print data

is masked so as to leave a margin outside each of said lateral edges detected by said sensor; and wherein, in accordance with the masked print data, said liquid ejecting apparatus ejects said liquid in a region which is set wider than the width of said medium and does not eject said liquid beyond said margin,” as set forth in some variation in claims 19 and 37.

For at least these exemplary reasons, claims 19 and 37 are patentably distinguishable (and are patentable over) Morikawa. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this rejection of claims 19 and 37. Claims 21-26, 28, 29, 31, and 35 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 19.

V. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morikawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,917,995 to Ota (hereinafter “Ota”), claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morikawa in view of US Patent 6,464,417 to Barbera et al. (hereinafter “Barbera”), claims 32-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morikawa in view of JP 05221103 to Takada et al. (hereinafter “Takada”), and claim 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morikawa in view of Ota, Barbera, and Takada. Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejections at least in view of the following exemplary comments.

Claim 36 has been cancelled, rendering this rejection moot. Claims 27, 30, and 32-34 depend on claim 19. Applicant has already demonstrated that Morikawa does not meet all the requirements of independent claim 19. Ota, Barbera, and Takada do not cure the deficient teachings of Morikawa. Together, the combined teachings of these references would not have (and could not have) led the artisan of ordinary skill to have achieved the subject matter of claim

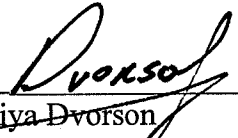
19. Since claims 27, 30, and 32-34 depend on claim 19, they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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